

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Spring Issue

Greensburg, Indiana

April 1992

OCCASION: Spring Meeting  
PLACE: Decatur County REMC  
Building  
DATE: Friday evening, April 24,  
1992 at 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: The evening entertain-  
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Bartholomew County Historical  
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active and she is one of the guid-  
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topic, but it will be well done,  
come and see.

Donations:

Memorials - In memory of John  
Oliger by Eugenia & Kenneth  
Lange.

In memory of John Oliger,  
William Parker and Marlin  
Maddux by Van P. Batterton.

Museum Donations have been  
made by Helen Robbins Hollerman  
and Jessie R. Smith.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING was held Fri-  
day evening at the Presbyterian  
Church. The women of the church  
produced a fine meal for some 70  
members. Rather a slim turn out  
considering past performances.  
L.C. Rudolf, a retired Presbyter-  
ian minister from Bloomington,  
gave a very interesting talk about  
the history of churches in Indiana.  
Preceding the program a short  
business session was conducted by  
Pres. Rheadawn Metz. Annual re-  
ports were read & approved along  
with the election of officers for  
the coming year. The officers  
remained the same except for the  
election of Herb Scheidler as a  
trustee of the museum. This  
meeting was a real good get to-  
gether, although not too well  
attended, was a fine evening.

THE SOCIETY and the community  
have had the misfortune to lose  
three fine gentlemen during the  
past few months, John Oliger,  
Marlin Maddux and William Parker.  
They all, in their way, were  
great contributors to the  
success of the Society. Their  
influence on the organization  
and Decatur County will be  
felt for a long time. Keep in  
mind the good works of these  
men as we try to equal their  
endeavors.

\* \* \* \* \*  
VIDEO TAPES - are for sale by  
the Society. One is about the  
Centennial Celebration of  
Greensburg in 1959. The other  
is entitled Deactur County  
Now & Then, pictures & commen-  
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Rheadawn Metz 663-7121 or Van  
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HISTORY OF DRUG STORES .....

....Continued from last issue.

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The business further expanded in July, 1982 by purchasing an adjacent building, formerly occupied by the Men's Shop clothing store. A Home Health Care Department was established in this building and incorporated into the operations of Hunter Pharmacy.

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James Gilman Robbins, son of William, was born on this farm, June 10 1829. James G. Robbins has two sons, John and Will, who with their father started in the pure bred Scotch Shorthorn business in 1876.

They were the leading Scotch Shorthorn breeders and exhibitors, and the two sons became one of the best expert judges of cattle in this country during a period beginning about 1890.

Gay Monarch a bull along with four cows, won the grand prize of 1,000 dollars at the Worlds Fair in 1893.

The first importation of cattle from Scotland to this herd was four females and a male in 1895. In 1896 the Robbins herd was shown at Madison Square Garden in New York City and won every first prize offered.

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Bull at the International Livestock Show at Chicago. His grave stone along with Gay Monarch has been moved to the back yard of the Decatur County Historical Museum in 1988 because they were being neglected on the farm.

I remember of being at the cattle sales in the 1930's. A large tent was set up with bleachers all around with bright straw bedding over knee deep in the ring. Earl Gartin of Burney was one of the Auctioneers and as the first calf was led in and her pedigree and the prizes she won were read, the bidding would start and some brought as much as \$2,500 with the average around \$750. Fat cattle at this time were selling for about .12¢ per pound or about \$150 each. They usually had around 50 head to sell. Buyers come from several states and we had several buyers in Decatur County as they were a popular breed.

Every summer, time was spent getting ready to take and show the cattle at fairs all over the middle west. They would get two box cars and if they were to show in Canada they had to have an extra low car to go under a low underpass. Several days were spent making pens, bins for feed and water and bunks for the men. When the day arrived to load the cattle, most all relation and town of Horace was on hand to lead the cattle to the cars in a parade usually ten to fifteen head. Sometimes they would be gone from four to five weeks.

After the men got back from showing the cattle they usually had some tales to tell. I remember one time one of the boys told us a game they played on each other. After a while most of the boys would get to know each other and when the trains were switching the cars in and out of the fairs the cars would pass each other and the idea was to see who would get the other person wet by throwing a bucket of water at him. I had been soaked twice and a corn cob bounced off my head and with the score three to nothing I had to get even. So with plenty of ammunition on board I planned my attack and as luck would have it we passed by them and I scored a direct hit with a shovel full of cattle manure. I was glad that we were heading for home as the game was becoming a bit messy.

Another time at a fair with plenty of time on our hands, we used the pocketbook trick with a string attached. When one would bend over to pick it up we would pull it away with a string.

Another time we put a brick in a popcorn box and put it on the floor where people walked and watch people kick it. This time a black boy maybe sixteen years old, barefooted just as happy as he could be came down the alley and tried to drop kick the box into the next pen. Oh I know that really hurt! He gave me a look that I didn't like that reminded me that I was due at the machinery field thirty minutes ago and as I looked back he was still on the floor trying to count his toes. We didn't try this trick again until we got to another fair.

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The farm was one of the show places in southern Indiana. Brightly painted wood fences ran around the buildings and along the road. The barns were painted white trimmed in black with the name Robinwood Farm on the front of the barn. The big new house was destroyed by fire in the late 1930's. John and Mary Bennett have owned this farm of 376 acres since 1983.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

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By: Anna Linville

One of the events in my life as a small country girl, is still quite vivid to me,---at 80 years!

We lived on a farm in Saltcreek Township, Decatur County. In that south eastern area, where Franklin, Ripley and Decatur counties almost join each other. On the West of our farm was the Mt. Etna School House, just a stones throw from our house.

It was not unusual, in the summer time, for strangers to stop under the shade of the locust trees across the road from the school house, on the edge of my fathers farm, to rest, water their horses at the school house well, and to eat their lunch. The "log haulers" always made that their "luch stop."

One summer day, a man with a very nice buggy, and nice horse, drove by our home. In those days we knew all the horses in our neighborhood as well as we knew the owners. This was a strange horse and a strange man. Later we noticed this man was walking back and forth under the locust trees, where he had stopped to eat. He seemed to be looking for something on the ground.

In the course of sometime, he walked back to our house. My father had gone back to work, so mother talked to him. He told mother he had stopped under the locust trees, to rest, to eat his lunch, and to water his horse. He said as he was ready to leave he discovered he had lost the signet ring that he wore. He said it was the gift of a dear friend, and he prized it very much, but he had to be in Greensburg by a certain time, to meet a man, and discuss a business deal, so he could "linger no longer." He left his Chicago address with mother, and said he would send her \$25 if she found the ring.

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SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....Rheadawn Metz  
RR# 8 Box 21, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-7121  
1st. V. Pres.....John Westhafer  
2nd. V. Pres.....Virginia Carney  
Rec. Sec.....Lenore Bainbridge  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
John Parker  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
Herb Scheidler  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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Many times mother and I looked all over that area, but no ring. I frequently hunted for the ring, with visions of what I could get with that \$25, but we found no ring.

A few weeks later that summer, another stranger stopped at that same place, nothing unusual about that, but he came to our house. He said as he was eating he noticed something in the grass and upon investigating found it to be a signet ring. Did mother know anything about it? Mother did. She got the Chicago address and gave it to the man telling him about the man who lost it.

He started to walk away, but turned and came back. He said he was traveling and in a hurry, and did not want to bother with it. If mother would give him \$10 for the ring he would be satisfied and she could send the ring to the Chicago address and collect the \$25 -- a profit of \$15, quite a sum then. Mother told him she wanted no part of it, so he walked away slowly with the ring and the Chicago address.

In the course of a month or six weeks, news traveled slowly then, we heard that an elderly couple somewhere between Greensburg and Indianapolis had given the man \$10, sent the ring to the address given, and a letter telling the story. The letter and ring was returned marked "no such address known". The elderly couple, so the story goes, took the ring to a jeweler for evaluation. It was a "ten cent store" ring, or so the story goes.... so beware!

[illegible]

CARL PATTON MEMOIRS

The first home was a small brick farmhouse with a front yard and a springhouse. There was a fence that ran east from the house about a quarter of a mile to the road. On one side of the fence was a field and on the other side was a wooded pasture and on that side was a lane with a gate to the road. One day Mary put her baby Carl in their open top buggy, hitched up the buggy mare and fastened her colt to the mother with a hitching strap. They were going to Grandma Robison's. Carl had on a dress and a sun bonnet. As Mary and Carl drove down the lane they were joined by three or four horses. You know horses are crazy about any colt.

Arriving at the gate they found there was a dead animal in the field and there were a lot of turkey buzzards in the dead top of a tree near the gate. You seldom see a buzzard except high, high in the sky flying alone or far apart in huge circles, unless he has gathered with others for a gruesome feast. He is not afraid of people; he knows that although a social outcast, there is a big fine for killing him. He is hideously ugly and revolting and shunned more than a skunk for if he hits you with a load of his breakfast, if you get too close, you'll have to swim the ocean and sleep in a volcano before you can say how do you do to anyone. The most helish thing on a farm in those days was a farm gate. None alike except all were broken down, chained or wired together, propped up and left like a deadfall trap for next fellow. Once opened, had to be rechained, renailed, rewired, fresh lumber added and roped together.

Mary dragged the gate open, expecting to shoo the loose horses



away while she drove thru and closed the gate. But the unearthly squeek of the gate scared that tree full of buzzards and they all took off at once, which united kick off brought down the whole rotten top of that dying tree in chunks, branches and twigs. Mary rushed back to Carl thinking him dead or mortally wounded in that cloud of trunk, dirt and branches. Carl was setting up straight choking a bit, greatly entertained, but soiled. In the meantime the horses had escaped thru the gate. Mary was of course unable either to manage the gate now a wreck or get the freedom loving animals back into the pasture; so she proceeded to Grandma Robison's where the whole carivan was welcomed and fed.

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MUSEUM CURATOR

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663-2769

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Dale Myers  
663-4370

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Spring Issue

Greensburg, Indiana

April 1992

OCCASION: Spring Meeting  
PLACE: Decatur County REMC  
Building  
DATE: Friday evening, April 24,  
1992 at 7:00 P.M.

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Oliger by Eugenia & Kenneth  
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In memory of John Oliger,  
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By: Anna Linville

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One summer day, a man with a very nice buggy, and nice horse, drove by our home. In those days we knew all the horses in our neighborhood as well as we knew the owners. This was a strange horse and a strange man. Later we noticed this man was walking back and forth under the locust trees, where he had stopped to eat. He seemed to be looking for something on the ground.

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Many times mother and I looked all over that area, but no ring. I frequently hunted for the ring, with visions of what I could get with that \$25, but we found no ring.

A few weeks later that summer, another stranger stopped at that same place, nothing unusual about that, but he came to our house. He said as he was eating he noticed something in the grass and upon investigating found it to be a signet ring. Did mother know anything about it? Mother did. She got the Chicago address and gave it to the man telling him about the man who lost it.

He started to walk away, but turned and came back. He said he was traveling and in a hurry, and did not want to bother with it. If mother would give him \$10 for the ring he would be satisfied and she could send the ring to the Chicago address and collect the \$25 -- a profit of \$15, quite a sum then. Mother told him she wanted no part of it, so he walked away slowly with the ring and the Chicago address.

In the course of a month or six weeks, news traveled slowly then, we heard that an elderly couple somewhere between Greensburg and Indianapolis had given the man \$10, sent the ring to the address given, and a letter telling the story. The letter and ring was returned marked "no such address known". The elderly couple, so the story goes, took the ring to a jeweler for evaluation. It was a "ten cent store" ring, or so the story goes.... so beware!

[illegible]

CARL PATTON MEMOIRS

The first home was a small brick farmhouse with a front yard and a springhouse. There was a fence that ran east from the house about a quarter of a mile to the road. On one side of the fence was a field and on the other side was a wooded pasture and on that side was a lane with a gate to the road. One day Mary put her baby Carl in their open top buggy, hitched up the buggy mare and fastened her colt to the mother with a hitching strap. They were going to Grandma Robison's. Carl had on a dress and a sun bonnet. As Mary and Carl drove down the lane they were joined by three or four horses. You know horses are crazy about any colt.

Arriving at the gate they found there was a dead animal in the field and there were a lot of turkey buzzards in the dead top of a tree near the gate. You seldom see a buzzard except high, high in the sky flying alone or far apart in huge circles, unless he has gathered with others for a gruesome feast. He is not afraid of people; he knows that although a social outcast, there is a big fine for killing him. He is hideously ugly and revolting and shunned more than a skunk for if he hits you with a load of his breakfast, if you get too close, you'll have to swim the ocean and sleep in a volcano before you can say how do you do to anyone. The most helish thing on a farm in those days was a farm gate. None alike except all were broken down, chained or wired together, propped up and left like a deadfall trap for next fellow. Once opened, had to be rechained, renailed, rewired, fresh lumber added and roped together.

Mary dragged the gate open, expecting to shoo the loose horses

away while she drove thru and closed the gate. But the unearthly squeek of the gate scared that tree full of buzzards and they all took off at once, which united kick off brought down the whole rotten top of that dying tree in chunks, branches and twigs. Mary rushed back to Carl thinking him dead or mortally wounded in that cloud of trunk, dirt and branches. Carl was setting up straight choking a bit, greatly entertained, but soiled. In the meantime the horses had escaped thru the gate. Mary was of course unable either to manage the gate now a wreck or get the freedom loving animals back into the pasture; so she proceeded to Grandma Robison's where the whole carivan was welcomed and fed.

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"The fruit crop is not immense in this locality."

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In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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John Parker  
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MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
Herb Scheidler  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

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COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
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Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

Nonprofit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 53 Greensburg, IN. 47240
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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Spring Issue

Greensburg, Indiana

April 1992

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PLACE: Decatur County REMC  
Building  
DATE: Friday evening, April 24,  
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In memory of John Oliger,  
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James Gilman Robbins, son of William, was born on this farm, June 10 1829. James G. Robbins has two sons, John and Will, who with their father started in the pure bred Scotch Shorthorn business in 1876.

They were the leading Scotch Shorthorn breeders and exhibitors, and the two sons became one of the best expert judges of cattle in this country during a period beginning about 1890.

Gay Monarch a bull along with four cows, won the grand prize of 1,000 dollars at the Worlds Fair in 1893.

The first importation of cattle from Scotland to this herd was four females and a male in 1895. In 1896 the Robbins herd was shown at Madison Square Garden in New York City and won every first prize offered.

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Every summer, time was spent getting ready to take and show the cattle at fairs all over the middle west. They would get two box cars and if they were to show in Canada they had to have an extra low car to go under a low underpass. Several days were spent making pens, bins for feed and water and bunks for the men. When the day arrived to load the cattle, most all relation and town of Horace was on hand to lead the cattle to the cars in a parade usually ten to fifteen head. Sometimes they would be gone from four to five weeks.

After the men got back from showing the cattle they usually had some tales to tell. I remember one time one of the boys told us a game they played on each other. After a while most of the boys would get to know each other and when the trains were switching the cars in and out of the fairs the cars would pass each other and the idea was to see who would get the other person wet by throwing a bucket of water at him. I had been soaked twice and a corn cob bounced off my head and with the score three to nothing I had to get even. So with plenty of ammunition on board I planned my attack and as luck would have it we passed by them and I scored a direct hit with a shovel full of cattle manure. I was glad that we were heading for home as the game was becoming a bit messy.

Another time at a fair with plenty of time on our hands, we used the pocketbook trick with a string attached. When one would bend over to pick it up we would pull it away with a string.

Another time we put a brick in a popcorn box and put it on the floor where people walked and watch people kick it. This time a black boy maybe sixteen years old, barefooted just as happy as he could be came down the alley and tried to drop kick the box into the next pen. Oh I know that really hurt! He gave me a look that I didn't like that reminded me that I was due at the machinery field thirty minutes ago and as I looked back he was still on the floor trying to count his toes. We didn't try this trick again until we got to another fair.

In the 1940's when Earl was no longer able to run the farm, a son in law, Clifford Weldy took over until the farm was sold to Jim Myers in 1950.

Earl Robbins died in 1956 ending four generations on this farm. They were one of the most prominent farmers and stockman in this county and gained national fame as a breeder and exhibitor of livestock.

The farm was one of the show places in southern Indiana. Brightly painted wood fences ran around the buildings and along the road. The barns were painted white trimmed in black with the name Robinwood Farm on the front of the barn. The big new house was destroyed by fire in the late 1930's. John and Mary Bennett have owned this farm of 376 acres since 1983.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

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### THE STORY OF A RING

By: Anna Linville

One of the events in my life as a small country girl, is still quite vivid to me,---at 80 years!

We lived on a farm in Saltcreek Township, Decatur County. In that south eastern area, where Franklin, Ripley and Decatur counties almost join each other. On the West of our farm was the Mt. Etna School House, just a stones throw from our house.

It was not unusual, in the summer time, for strangers to stop under the shade of the locust trees across the road from the school house, on the edge of my fathers farm, to rest, water their horses at the school house well, and to eat their lunch. The "log haulers" always made that their "luch stop."

One summer day, a man with a very nice buggy, and nice horse, drove by our home. In those days we knew all the horses in our neighborhood as well as we knew the owners. This was a strange horse and a strange man. Later we noticed this man was walking back and forth under the locust trees, where he had stopped to eat. He seemed to be looking for something on the ground.

In the course of sometime, he walked back to our house. My father had gone back to work, so mother talked to him. He told mother he had stopped under the locust trees, to rest, to eat his lunch, and to water his horse. He said as he was ready to leave he discovered he had lost the signet ring that he wore. He said it was the gift of a dear friend, and he prized it very much, but he had to be in Greensburg by a certain time, to meet a man, and discuss a business deal, so he could "linger no longer." He left his Chicago address with mother, and said he would send her \$25 if she found the ring.

Many times mother and I looked all over that area, but no ring. I frequently hunted for the ring, with visions of what I could get with that \$25, but we found no ring.





away while she drove thru and closed the gate. But the unearthly squeek of the gate scared that tree full of buzzards and they all took off at once, which united kick off brought down the whole rotten top of that dying tree in chunks, branches and twigs. Mary rushed back to Carl thinking him dead or mortally wounded in that cloud of trunk, dirt and branches. Carl was setting up straight choking a bit, greatly entertained, but soiled. In the meantime the horses had escaped thru the gate. Mary was of course unable either to manage the gate now a wreck or get the freedom loving animals back into the pasture; so she proceeded to Grandma Robison's where the whole carivan was welcomed and fed.

# # # #

#### ITEMS FROM THE REVIEW.....

Gas The Wood market was expected to be good for some months. "Gas is short at both ends." Will Winchester would shoot a gas well at Rushville the first of the week.

Crime "Two toughs" from Muncie were in the Decatur County jail charged with grand larceny. They had been under surveillance because they had been selling gold watches and jewelry on the streets. Word from Muncie said that a jewelry store there had been robbed by two men answering the description of the "toughs." Their prospects for a trip over the road are excellent"

Medicine Man Dr. Wan-A-Tan recently from Indian Territory was opening an Indian medicine lodge and sanitarium in Mr. Johnson's property on Main Street. He would be assisted by his wife and son, who were Indian doctors.

Contest Who would win the big fight--Sullivan or Corbett? How many rounds and how many minutes would they go? Ehrhardt the tailor was offering an \$8 pair of pants for the closest guess and a \$7 vest for the next closest, garments to be of the winner's choice.

Weather and Crops Recent rains had helped the corn and prospects were good despite late planting. Light frost was expected.

"The fruit crop is not immense in this locality."

John Hinds (the man with the lingering grippe) had grown a three pound tomato.

Fraternal Affair At the newly organized K of P Lodge in St. Paul, ".....story of Damon and Pythais filled the hearts of the applicants and the goat worked to perfection.....All, when the dull gray morning came, were tired and ready for a morning nap."

Surprise Parties These were "all the rage." Recipients were Taylor Osman of Marion Township on Tuesday, and Lewis Fiscus of east of town on Thursday. (He refused to pretend surprise.) On Wednesday "representative German citizens" surprised Mrs. Mary Ehrhardt "on the occasion of the fifty-second anniversary of her deceased husband Conrad Ehrhardt." Charles Fromer proposed a toast in German.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_



SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....Rheadawn Metz  
RR# 8 Box 21, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-7121  
1st. V. Pres.....John Westhafer  
2nd. V. Pres.....Virginia Carney  
Rec. Sec.....Lenore Bainbridge  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
John Parker  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
Herb Scheidler  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

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By: Anna Linville

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In Memory of _____	Comments
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SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....Rheadawn Metz  
RR# 8 Box 21, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-7121  
1st. V. Pres.....John Westhafer  
2nd. V. Pres.....Virginia Carney  
Rec. Sec.....Lenore Bainbridge  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
John Parker  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
Herb Scheidler  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Spring Issue

Greensburg, Indiana

April 1992

OCCASION: Spring Meeting  
PLACE: Decatur County REMC  
Building  
DATE: Friday evening, April 24,  
1992 at 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: The evening entertain-  
ment will be conducted by Laura  
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topic, but it will be well done,  
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Donations:

Memorials - In memory of John  
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In memory of John Oliger,  
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Museum Donations have been  
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ANNUAL DINNER MEETING was held Fri-  
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considering past performances.  
L.C. Rudolf, a retired Presbyter-  
ian minister from Bloomington,  
gave a very interesting talk about  
the history of churches in Indiana.  
Preceding the program a short  
business session was conducted by  
Pres. Rheadawn Metz. Annual re-  
ports were read & approved along  
with the election of officers for  
the coming year. The officers  
remained the same except for the  
election of Herb Scheidler as a  
trustee of the museum. This  
meeting was a real good get to-  
gether, although not too well  
attended, was a fine evening.

THE SOCIETY and the community  
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three fine gentlemen during the  
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They all, in their way, were  
great contributors to the  
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THE STORY OF A RING

By: Anna Linville

One of the events in my life as a small country girl, is still quite vivid to me,---at 80 years!

We lived on a farm in Saltcreek Township, Decatur County. In that south eastern area, where Franklin, Ripley and Decatur counties almost join each other. On the West of our farm was the Mt. Etna School House, just a stones throw from our house.

It was not unusual, in the summer time, for strangers to stop under the shade of the locust trees across the road from the school house, on the edge of my fathers farm, to rest, water their horses at the school house well, and to eat their lunch. The "log haulers" always made that their "luch stop."

One summer day, a man with a very nice buggy, and nice horse, drove by our home. In those days we knew all the horses in our neighborhood as well as we knew the owners. This was a strange horse and a strange man. Later we noticed this man was walking back and forth under the locust trees, where he had stopped to eat. He seemed to be looking for something on the ground.

In the course of sometime, he walked back to our house. My father had gone back to work, so mother talked to him. He told mother he had stopped under the locust trees, to rest, to eat his lunch, and to water his horse. He said as he was ready to leave he discovered he had lost the signet ring that he wore. He said it was the gift of a dear friend, and he prized it very much, but he had to be in Greensburg by a certain time, to meet a man, and discuss a business deal, so he could "linger no longer." He left his Chicago address with mother, and said he would send her \$25 if she found the ring.

Many times mother and I looked all over that area, but no ring. I frequently hunted for the ring, with visions of what I could get with that \$25, but we found no ring.



A few weeks later that summer, another stranger stopped at that same place, nothing unusual about that, but he came to our house. He said as he was eating he noticed something in the grass and upon investigating found it to be a signet ring. Did mother know anything about it? Mother did. She got the Chicago address and gave it to the man telling him about the man who lost it.

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Spring Issue

Greensburg, Indiana

April 1992

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DATE: Friday evening, April 24,  
1992 at 7:00 P.M.

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Preceding the program a short  
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with the election of officers for  
the coming year. The officers  
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They all, in their way, were  
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Many times mother and I looked all over that area, but no ring. I frequently hunted for the ring, with visions of what I could get with that \$25, but we found no ring.





away while she drove thru and closed the gate. But the unearthly squeek of the gate scared that tree full of buzzards and they all took off at once, which united kick off brought down the whole rotten top of that dying tree in chunks, branches and twigs. Mary rushed back to Carl thinking him dead or mortally wounded in that cloud of trunk, dirt and branches. Carl was setting up straight choking a bit, greatly entertained, but soiled. In the meantime the horses had escaped thru the gate. Mary was of course unable either to manage the gate now a wreck or get the freedom loving animals back into the pasture; so she proceeded to Grandma Robison's where the whole carivan was welcomed and fed.

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In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments\_\_\_\_\_

---



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Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

# MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
Herb Scheidler  
Morgan Miers

## MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

## SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

## COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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Permit No. 53  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Spring Issue

Greensburg, Indiana

April 1992

OCCASION: Spring Meeting  
PLACE: Decatur County REMC  
Building  
DATE: Friday evening, April 24,  
1992 at 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: The evening entertain-  
ment will be conducted by Laura  
Moeses, who is a Director of the  
Bartholomew County Historical  
Society. This Society is quite  
active and she is one of the guid-  
ing lights. I'm not sure of her  
topic, but it will be well done,  
come and see.

Donations:

Memorials - In memory of John  
Oliger by Eugenia & Kenneth  
Lange.

In memory of John Oliger,  
William Parker and Marlin  
Maddux by Van P. Batterton.

Museum Donations have been  
made by Helen Robbins Hollerman  
and Jessie R. Smith.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING was held Fri-  
day evening at the Presbyterian  
Church. The women of the church  
produced a fine meal for some 70  
members. Rather a slim turn out  
considering past performances.  
L.C. Rudolf, a retired Presbyter-  
ian minister from Bloomington,  
gave a very interesting talk about  
the history of churches in Indiana.  
Preceding the program a short  
business session was conducted by  
Pres. Rheadawn Metz. Annual re-  
ports were read & approved along  
with the election of officers for  
the coming year. The officers  
remained the same except for the  
election of Herb Scheidler as a  
trustee of the museum. This  
meeting was a real good get to-  
gether, although not too well  
attended, was a fine evening.

THE SOCIETY and the community  
have had the misfortune to lose  
three fine gentlemen during the  
past few months, John Oliger,  
Marlin Maddux and William Parker.  
They all, in their way, were  
great contributors to the  
success of the Society. Their  
influence on the organization  
and Decatur County will be  
felt for a long time. Keep in  
mind the good works of these  
men as we try to equal their  
endeavors.

\* \* \* \* \*  
VIDEO TAPES - are for sale by  
the Society. One is about the  
Centennial Celebration of  
Greensburg in 1959. The other  
is entitled Deactur County  
Now & Then, pictures & commen-  
tary of the area. If you are  
interested in these, call  
Rheadawn Metz 663-7121 or Van  
P. Batterton 663-5974.

\* \* \* \* \*  
HISTORY OF DRUG STORES .....  
....Continued from last issue.

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Wright's Drug Store on the  
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store room formerly occupied by  
the Fair Store in August of  
1975.

Mr. Herbert Hunter retired in  
1972 from active participation  
in the business, after serving  
the public for 63 years as a  
pharmacist. Mr. Hunter died in  
August 1976 at the age of 91.

In June 1982, Hunter Pharmacy purchased Batterton's Drug Store which was located on the West side of the square and was listed at the oldest drug store in Indiana, being established in 1876. This business was incorporated into the operations of Hunter Pharmacy.

The business further expanded in July, 1982 by purchasing an adjacent building, formerly occupied by the Men's Shop clothing store. A Home Health Care Department was established in this building and incorporated into the operations of Hunter Pharmacy.

Hunter Pharmacy is among the largest independent pharmacies in southeastern Indiana serving the retail patrons of Decatur County and acting as consulting pharmacist to the Nursing Homes in the County.

Oliver and William Hunter are joined in the operations of Hunter Pharmacy by Nicholas Peters, Dale Boing and Gary Schoettmer, all stock-holders of the corporation and registered pharmacists.

In Decenter of 1989, Oliver and William Hunter sold their interest in Hunter Pharmacy to Nicholas Peters, Dale Boing and Herbert Hunter, the son of William Hunter.

# # # # # # # # # #

#### ROBINWOOD FARM

On August 6, 1798, William Robbins was born in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Franklin County, Virginia. He came to Indiana in 1821, entered 376 acres of land located one-half mile east of Horace in Decatur County.

James Gilman Robbins, son of William, was born on this farm, June 10 1829. James G. Robbins has two sons, John and Will, who with their father started in the pure bred Scotch Shorthorn business in 1876.

They were the leading Scotch Shorthorn breeders and exhibitors, and the two sons became one of the best expert judges of cattle in this country during a period beginning about 1890.

Gay Monarch a bull along with four cows, won the grand prize of 1,000 dollars at the Worlds Fair in 1893.

The first importation of cattle from Scotland to this herd was four females and a male in 1895. In 1896 the Robbins herd was shown at Madison Square Garden in New York City and won every first prize offered.

After Will Robbins death in 1926 his son, Earl Robbins took over the farm.

In 1934, Raveni Masterpiece was judged the Grand Champion



Bull at the International Livestock Show at Chicago. His grave stone along with Gay Monarch has been moved to the back yard of the Decatur County Historical Museum in 1988 because they were being neglected on the farm.

I remember of being at the cattle sales in the 1930's. A large tent was set up with bleachers all around with bright straw bedding over knee deep in the ring. Earl Gartin of Burney was one of the Auctioneers and as the first calf was led in and her pedigree and the prizes she won were read, the bidding would start and some brought as much as \$2,500 with the average around \$750. Fat cattle at this time were selling for about .12¢ per pound or about \$150 each. They usually had around 50 head to sell. Buyers come from several states and we had several buyers in Decatur County as they were a popular breed.

Every summer, time was spent getting ready to take and show the cattle at fairs all over the middle west. They would get two box cars and if they were to show in Canada they had to have an extra low car to go under a low underpass. Several days were spent making pens, bins for feed and water and bunks for the men. When the day arrived to load the cattle, most all relation and town of Horace was on hand to lead the cattle to the cars in a parade usually ten to fifteen head. Sometimes they would be gone from four to five weeks.

After the men got back from showing the cattle they usually had some tales to tell. I remember one time one of the boys told us a game they played on each other. After a while most of the boys would get to know each other and when the trains were switching the cars in and out of the fairs the cars would pass each other and the idea was to see who would get the other person wet by throwing a bucket of water at him. I had been soaked twice and a corn cob bounced off my head and with the score three to nothing I had to get even. So with plenty of ammunition on board I planned my attack and as luck would have it we passed by them and I scored a direct hit with a shovel full of cattle manure. I was glad that we were heading for home as the game was becoming a bit messy.

Another time at a fair with plenty of time on our hands, we used the pocketbook trick with a string attached. When one would bend over to pick it up we would pull it away with a string.

Another time we put a brick in a popcorn box and put it on the floor where people walked and watch people kick it. This time a black boy maybe sixteen years old, barefooted just as happy as he could be came down the alley and tried to drop kick the box into the next pen. Oh I know that really hurt! He gave me a look that I didn't like that reminded me that I was due at the machinery field thirty minutes ago and as I looked back he was still on the floor trying to count his toes. We didn't try this trick again until we got to another fair.

In the 1940's when Earl was no longer able to run the farm, a son in law, Clifford Weldy took over until the farm was sold to Jim Myers in 1950.

Earl Robbins died in 1956 ending four generations on this farm. They were one of the most prominent farmers and stockman in this county and gained national fame as a breeder and exhibitor of livestock.

The farm was one of the show places in southern Indiana. Brightly painted wood fences ran around the buildings and along the road. The barns were painted white trimmed in black with the name Robinwood Farm on the front of the barn. The big new house was destroyed by fire in the late 1930's. John and Mary Bennett have owned this farm of 376 acres since 1983.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

§            §            §            §            §            §

THE STORY OF A RING

By: Anna Linville

One of the events in my life as a small country girl, is still quite vivid to me,---at 80 years!

We lived on a farm in Saltcreek Township, Decatur County. In that south eastern area, where Franklin, Ripley and Decatur counties almost join each other. On the West of our farm was the Mt. Etna School House, just a stones throw from our house.

It was not unusual, in the summer time, for strangers to stop under the shade of the locust trees across the road from the school house, on the edge of my fathers farm, to rest, water their horses at the school house well, and to eat their lunch. The "log haulers" always made that their "luch stop."

One summer day, a man with a very nice buggy, and nice horse, drove by our home. In those days we knew all the horses in our neighborhood as well as we knew the owners. This was a strange horse and a strange man. Later we noticed this man was walking back and forth under the locust trees, where he had stopped to eat. He seemed to be looking for something on the ground.

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### The Correct Columbus Day

The executive committee of the national Columbus Day celebration had succeeded in having a bill introduced in Congress which would change the date of Columbus Day from October 12 to October 21. This was because of changes in the calendar since the time of Columbus. The city Schools were planning to celebrate on the 21st. (Or was it the 12th, after all?)

### State of the Art Kitchen Gadgets

The glass rolling pin which was easy to keep "clean and sweet," could be filled with ice to hold pastry dough at the optimum temperature. The marble slab was replacing the wooden dough board.

### Local Letters

"Summer is gone."  
"Band concert tonight."  
"Shelbyville Fair next week."  
"Court begins Monday." (The REVIEW noted elsewhere that the jurors were equally divided as to politics.)  
"School starts Monday, Labor Day."

### Literary Notes

Some articles in the September FORUM:

"Methods and Morals of Campaign Committees."  
"The Alarming Proportion of Venal Voters."  
"The Next Great Problems of Science."

In HARPER'S WEEKLY for August 24:

"Buffalow Bill in London." illustrated by Frederick Remington  
"My Lady Spinster." first in a series of interest to ladies

"With the dignified title of 'Ladies Aid'"  
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING was held Friday evening at the Presbyterian Church. The women of the church produced a fine meal for some 70 members. Rather a slim turn out considering past performances. L.C. Rudolf, a retired Presbyterian minister from Bloomington, gave a very interesting talk about the history of churches in Indiana. Preceding the program a short business session was conducted by Pres. Rheadawn Metz. Annual reports were read & approved along with the election of officers for the coming year. The officers remained the same except for the election of Herb Scheidler as a trustee of the museum. This meeting was a real good get together, although not too well attended, was a fine evening.

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Winter Issue

Greensburg, Indiana

January 1992

OCCASION: Thirty-Second Annual Dinner Meeting of the Historical Society of Decatur County.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian Church, NE Corner of the Courthouse Square.

DATE: Friday evening, Jan. 17, 1992 at 6:30 P.M.

DINNER: By the ladies of the church. Dinner is \$6.00 each. Please reserve by check sent to Maurice Keith, RR# 1, Greensburg. Deadline is the evening of January 14th.

PROGRAM: Mr. L. C. Rudolf, a retired Presbyterian minister, will speak to us about the history of churches in Indiana. His talk is entitled, "Goodby God, Moving to Indiana." That title certainly should pique your curiosity. Mr. Rudolf has been on the faculty of the Louisville Seminary. Also, he is an author, having written, "Hoosier Zoin" about Presbyterians in early Indiana. This program looks to be one of the best in a long time. Don't forget to make your reservations.

MEMORIAL

In memory of John Oliger by Vivian Kanouse.

DONATION

From Tower Tree Travel - proceeds from tour offered during Fall Festival.

NEW MEMBERS

Stanley Osting  
Dorothy F. Petty  
Irene Krieger - Batesville

FALL MEETING was held in the R.E.M.C. Building the evening of October 24th. The program was in charge of Judge Westhafer. Joe Westhafer was the speaker of the evening. The title of his talk was, "America's First Interstate; The Ohio River." One of Joe's hobbies is The River, and he is very well informed, not only about the actual river but also the happenings and history surrounding the waterway. Along with slides of many views pertaining to the river made for a very entertaining and informative evening. I am glad I was able to make it. The Society wishes to thank Joe for his time and trouble.

\* \* \* \* \*

PLEASE LET the Society know your new address if it has been changed because of 911 requirements. You might do this when you pay your dues which will be payable on January 1, 1992.

FOR SALE - The museum has eleven (11) shutters they are putting on the market. Bids will be accepted at any time.

=====

Run-away Horses:

Mrs. E.R. Forsyth and daughter had been thrown from their phaeton, but were not seriously injured. Ambrose Wolverton was injured when thrown from a cart north of town. The horse was injured as well. Misses Kittie Lovett and Maud Kilgore had been thrown from their buggy. Miss Kittie was not seriously injured, but Miss Maud sustained a compound fracture just above the right ankle. (ANDERSON HERALD)

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL L. COWAN, OF CLARKSBURG, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO CLINTON B. EMMERT, OF SAME PLACE.

## COFFEE-GRINDER.

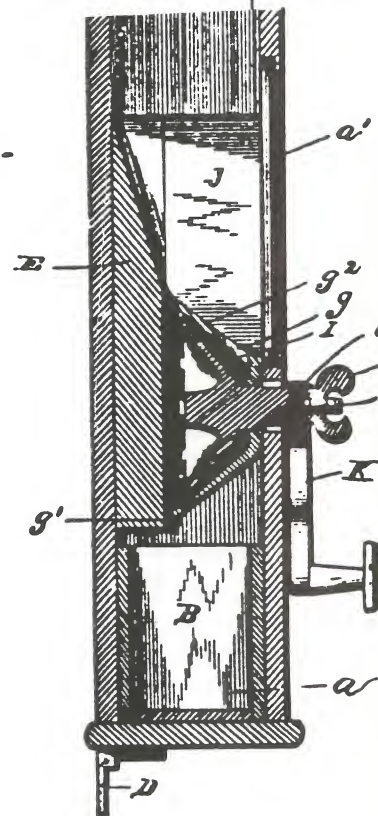
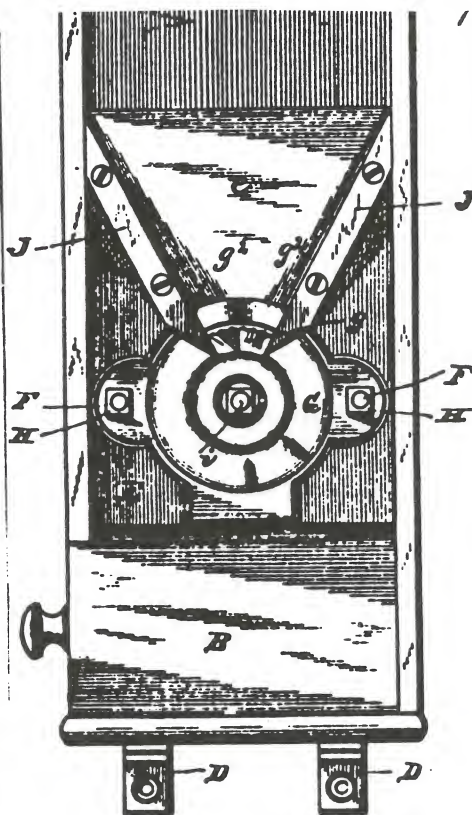
SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 420,773, dated February 4, 1890.

Application filed August 28, 1889. Serial No. 322,221. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL L. COWAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Clarksburg, in the county of Decatur and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffee-Grinders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has relation to coffee-mills; and it consists more particularly in the improved construction and combination of parts of the same, whereby the coffee is fed to the serrated grinders in a simple and expeditious manner, so as to insure the action of the latter upon all the berries as they are fed in the mill without liability of any escaping the action of the opposing conical disks, and, furthermore, has relation to an improved construction, whereby the coffee may be conveniently ground in either fine or coarse grains; and with these ends in view it consists in the improved construction and combination of parts of the same, as hereinafter more fully described and set forth.



### EXCERPTS FROM EARLY GREENSBURG NEWSPAPER

Fire--Burning of the residence of the venerable Dr. Hasbrouck. The alarm of fire was given about 10 o'clock Thursday. The company's team was at work in the south part of town. The engineer, Jackson, was with it and had the keys, so that the doors of the engine house had to be broken open, before the Hose Men and Hook and Ladder Co. could get in. Before they were ready for business, the building was so far gone, as to forbid any hopes of saving it. The nearest cistern was four square away and the run was a long one.

(Reads like something the Keystone Cops might have done back in the old movies.)

AN EARLY DRUG DEAL

Entered into this 18 day of April 1887 between John W. Burney of Decatur County, Indiana and J.C. St. John of Knoxville, Tennessee. Witness that the said St. John had this day bargained and sold to said Burney his one half interest in the right to make and manufacture "St. John Liniment and sell Specific", and "Eight Valuable Remedies", and all rights to sell and manufacture the same, with all advertising matter and plates, and all other appurtenance connected therewith.

For which the said Burney agrees to pay to said St. John the sum of \$50 to be paid as follows: \$5.00 in cash; \$5.00 in groceries and \$40.00 to be paid in wood at the regular market price to be delivered at Greensburg, Indiana by the 31st. of August 1887. And the said St. John hereby agrees not to sell or manufacture any of the above named remedies in the State of Indiana save for his own individual use, nor expose to any person the receipts for making any of the above named remedies.

Witness our hands this 18th day of April 1887.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
June 15, 1888

To whom it may concern be it known that the undersigned have reorganized a company to manufacture and sell St. John's Remedies known at the 8 Remedies. The Style of said Company to be known as formerly the Lone Tree Medicine Co. The Shares of Said Co. to be divided into 60 shares. St. John having 10 shares, J.W. Burney having 10 shares, William Harper 10 shares, the other 30 shares to be sold at \$25 per share the proceeds to be used for the benefit of said Co. in the manufacture and sale of the medicines.

REMINISCENCES OF JOHN G. ROBBINS

In 1838 the surrounding country was practically covered with a growth of heavy timber, the main growths being poplar, oak, ash, hickory, walnut and beech and sugar tree.

As a general rule the first process of clearing the ground was going through the forest and picking out the trees that could be used to make rails, then the balance of it was usually deadened and burned. Of course a great deal of the heaviest timber was hauled to the saw mills which were run by water, and sawed into lumber for building material and fencing.

The houses were built of logs. Some being round and some hewed logs. They were of a fair size, in many places the rooms were twenty feet square and the house two-story.

The wild animals were plentiful. The gray wolf was the only kind of wolf here. It was very necessary for the people to care for their sheep at night because of the wolves. Occasionally there was a panther, but they were so very wild that they soon left this country. The wild cats were also scarce. Their harm was mostly in killing pigs. Foxes were plentiful and were very mean on the pigs and chickens, and sometimes would catch a lamb. Of



course the coons, possums and squirrels were plentiful. There was plenty of wild turkey and no end to the pigeons. They congregated just west of here and also south, in innumerable numbers, so thickly that they broke all the heavy timber where they roosted.

The guns used at that time were all rifles, and occasionally a single barrel shot gun. Every farmer had a rifle.

Mt. Pleasant church was the first Methodist Church organized in this community in 1822. The next was the Liberty Baptist Church (which was a log house) organized in 1827. The separate Baptists organized the Union Baptist Church (frame house). The Columbia separate Baptist Church was organized just a little west of Horace, but only lasted a few years. Those were the four closest churches in this community.

The Liberty Baptist Church was first organized in the home of Charles Taylor in 1827. The first house was built on the Charles Taylor place, the land now owned by John Lee, and the second House of Worship was built on the land belonging to Bennie Taylor now owned by Wm. House and the third house was built on the land belonging to George Stark. It was destroyed by fire in 1852 and then they built the present house.

The first school house built on the land belonging to Nathaniel Robbins, now owned by Mr. Cort Moss, and used for a number of years. The second house was built on the land of J. G. Robbins, now owned by Mr. Charles C. Robbins, and the third house was built on the land belonging to Timothy Thomas, now owned by Sandcreek Township. They only had three months of school each year. The teachers were only paid from fifteen to twenty dollars a month.

There was very near no mail at all. Nothing but a weekly mail and we had to go to Greensburg for that. The postage ran from 5 to 25¢.

The roads at that time were made on the best ground and the nearest chute. They paid no attention to land lines. In the winter the people were simply shut in. They could not even go horseback. They had a two-horse wagon only, that being the main conveyance. In the winter they only went horse-back and a great deal of the time they could not go at all.

The farming implement was just a one-horse plow to break the ground and plow the corn. The plow was a wooden mold-board plow. They also had a wooden tooth harrow and then the hoe which was made by the blacksmith.

The hay was all cut with the scythe. They used wooden pitch-forks and it took about five men to put up a ton of hay in one day.

At that time the wage was about \$10.00 per month. It cost 25¢ a cord to have the wood cut. A number of days many men worked for 25¢ a day.

There was no market over the country for any corn, wheat or anything of that kind. Eggs were 3¢ a dozen, and coffee 7 & 8¢ a pound.

In order to sell corn and wheat, one had to get to a river market. The price of corn was about 15 to 20¢. Hogs sold about \$1.25 per hundred pounds.

¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶    ¶

### EXCERPTS from History of Drug Stores

Writtem by D.A. Batterton, about 1930

A peculiar thing about the drug trade in Greensburg pointed out by Mr. Batterton was the fact that the men in the business "stay put" for a long time. The stores here dating back a century have a number of illustrations of this fact. Another feature has been the fact that nearly all of them from time to time have been related by lines of blood or in-laws, so in addition to a brotherly love there has been a cousinly time that had made them like unto a secret fraternity, abounding in friendly relationships which has been often referred to by those outside the fraternity.

Another feature has been these stores have been continuously operated by natives of Decatur County.

St. John & Guthrie Store: This store was referred to as the oldest in the city, founded by Samuel Bryan in 1832 in the room one door south of the present location. Silas Stewart and his sons Daniel and John took charge in 1843. In 1863 the sons moved to Indianapolis and founded the Stewart wholesale drug store. T.C. and Brutus Hamilton succeeded the Stewarts and in 1872 Marshall Grover and William F. Stevens became owners. Mr. Stevens went to Muncie and Mr. Grover was the owner prior to 1892 when it became Grover, Hazelrigg and Bonner. The present owners began in 1906. Robert St. John has been in the store for 40 years. Clerks here have been James Shaw, Kirg Collins, S.F. Rogers, M.T. and Joe Moss, Will Littell, Elwood Carter, Will Callahan, Frank Donnell, Floyd Murphy, James Lanham, Walter and Theodore Ehrhardt, Louis Wittenberg, Richard Hamilton, Calvin Craig, Roy Beeson and Mrs. Fred Nordmeyer.

T.C. Wright Store: This store is one of the oldest and was first a general store of Abram Hendricks, son of Thomas Hendricks, founder of Greensburg. Abram's son, Thomas Hendricks, and his cousin, A.H. Talbott, succeeded to this store about 1875 and the store has been in the same location for over a century. In 1881 Joseph S. Moss entered this store and remained there until his death two years ago, a period of 50 years. The firm of Talbott and Moss existed for 21 years and was widely known. Men who were clerks were T.C. and Brutus Hamilton, Marsh Grover, W.H. Hazelrigg, Dock Seitz, Hendricks King, Will Hendricks, Don Shannon, Dyar Hazelrigg, George Richardson, Louis Stevens, Add Magee, Roy Lugenbill, Mon Moss, Carlos Bender. T.C. Wright, present owner, came here from Clarksburg twenty years ago and became owner two years ago.

F.M. Henry Store: F. Mills Henry had the distinction of being the dean of the druggists, although he had the "baby" store, established in 1900. He began with W.L. Hasbrouck in 1882 on the south side. Watt Harvey was there then and the soda fountain was

said to be the first in the city. Mr. Henry was with Rogers & Dobyys and J.H. Alexander & Co. before engaging in business 33 years ago as F.M. Henry & Co. Herbert Hunter joined him in 1907 and is still there as a member of the firm. Clerks have been Stanton Guthrie, Harry Riley, Guy Guthrie, Frank Shaw, Will Steckelman, Loren Ketchum, Wayne Eubank, Carl Goddard and Grover Borden.

Armington Store: The store of Dr. Armington where Charles L. Hayatt's store is now was mentioned. It ceased to be about 1896 when closed by J.J. Hazelrigg and sons, Frank and Dix. This store existed in the 50's, 60's and 70's. Brewington & Loper once owned it, then Gus Armington, Newt Hazelrigg and Lon Ross. Polk Armington and Russ Sawyer bring it down to about 1875 when A.C. Hazelrigg become owner and operated it for about 20 years.

J. Lorraine Wright Store: Another store that ceased was one started by J. Lorraine Wright on the south side where the Laughlin cafe is now. This store was operated from about 1892 to 1900 and was sold to Dr. J.M. Tobias who remained only about a year. John Elder and Walter Johnson were clerks in this store.

Batterton's Stores: The two Batterton stores of the present day were formed in 1927 when the Battertons who were on the south side where the A. & P. store is now bought the Magee store and combined the two, one at the Magee location and another in the K. of P. building, "The Palms." The history of the west side store goes back to 1854 when Davies Batterton and W.H. Hazelrigg bought the lot for \$800. The lot sold in 1834 for \$30. When this lot was sold in 1873 with the building on it, it brought \$3,500 for half of it. Davies Batterton died in 1860 and the business was carried on by Mr. Hazelrigg, his brother-in-law, for about 25 years. Then to W. A. Donnell & Co., Rogers & Dobyys, then W.J.Dobyys & Co., J.H. Alexander & Co. and A.A. Magee brings it down to 1927. Clerks were John G. Mendenhall, Hayes Hazelrigg, William Harvey, Mr. Duddenhouse, J.H. Batterton, Marine Logan, Frank Batterton, Bernard Keen, S.F. Rogers, Carl Gentry, Burney Hatfield, Helen Marlin and Walter Johnston. The present owners, Ed and Da Batterton have grown up in the business. Their father John H. and their uncle, Frank Batterton were pioneers. They began in 1881 and operated stores here until 1889. Then in Rushville four years and back in Greensburg. Frank retired in 1900 on account of ill health. John H. passed away January 11, 1919. He was in business from 1867 to 1919.

\$       \$       \$       \$       \$       \$       \$       \$       \$

HISTORY OF DRUG STORES ...continued  
by: Bill & Oliver Hunter

In the 1927 to 1928 era, Batterton's Drug Store moved from the south side of the square, where Storie's Restaurant occupies at present, to the west side of the square into Magee's Drug Store which they had purchased. At the same time they opened the Palms Drug Store in the K of P Building, now occupied by the Koffee Kup Restaurant.

On the night of April 12, 1951 a disastrous fire struck downtown Greensburg, destroying Batterton's west side drug store, Minears Dry Goods Store, and forced the evacuation of Hunter Pharmacy.



Because of the fire, Batterton's moved their west side operation into the Palms, and consolidated both operations into one store. Batterton's rebuilt the west side store, closed the Palms, and moved back into their original facility on December 5, 1951.

After the retirement of Ed & Da Batterton, the drug store was operated by John H. Batterton & Robert K. Rhodes, with the help of long time clerk, Paul Jolliff. Throuth the years several pharmacists were employed two being Sharon Abrell and Roy Beeson.

Hunter Pharmacy moved back into their same location in about a week after the fire, and were in full operation again on April 19, 1951. William Hunter joined the Hunter Pharmacy operation on July 1st, 1957, after six years as a District Hospital Representative with Abbott Laboratories in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The first large chain store operation in the drug store line came to Greensburg in 1964, when Hook's opened on north Lincoln Street. This was also Greensburg's first Drug Store out of the downtown area. Then in 1982, Hook's opened a second store in the shopping center off north Michigan Avenue.

In 1989, Wal-Mart's large chain of general merchandise stores opened in the Greensburg Crossing Shopping Center and included a pharmacy department with limited hours.

MORE ON GREENSBURG DRUG STORES IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

+++++  
911--While riding home on the Stockyards street car in Indianapolis, Robert Womack, known in Greensburg, had an artery in his hand cut by a piece of glass. It was feared he might bleed to death before help could be obtained. He was taken off the car at Illinois Street, and was treated at a drug store. The glass causing the injury came from a small window broken when a boy threw a rock. (INDIANAPOLIS NEWS)

LOST--A black shoulder shawl on Sunday, between M. Grover's and W.P. Hann's. Finder please return to Hiram Drake.

+++++

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P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00  
Life Membership \$100.00

Payable by January 1st.

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#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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1290  
Mrs. Richard M. Miller  
2 Skyline Dr.  
Greensburg, IN 47240

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Spring Issue

Greensburg, Indiana

April 1992

OCCASION: Spring Meeting  
PLACE: Decatur County REMC  
Building  
DATE: Friday evening, April 24,  
1992 at 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: The evening entertain-  
ment will be conducted by Laura  
Moeses, who is a Director of the  
Bartholomew County Historical  
Society. This Society is quite  
active and she is one of the guid-  
ing lights. I'm not sure of her  
topic, but it will be well done,  
come and see.

Donations:

Memorials - In memory of John  
Oliger by Eugenia & Kenneth  
Lange.

In memory of John Oliger,  
William Parker and Marlin  
Maddux by Van P. Batterton.

Museum Donations have been  
made by Helen Robbins Hollerman  
and Jessie R. Smith.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING was held Fri-  
day evening at the Presbyterian  
Church. The women of the church  
produced a fine meal for some 70  
members. Rather a slim turn out  
considering past performances.  
L.C. Rudolf, a retired Presbyter-  
ian minister from Bloomington,  
gave a very interesting talk about  
the history of churches in Indiana.  
Preceding the program a short  
business session was conducted by  
Pres. Rheadawn Metz. Annual re-  
ports were read & approved along  
with the election of officers for  
the coming year. The officers  
remained the same except for the  
election of Herb Scheidler as a  
trustee of the museum. This  
meeting was a real good get to-  
gether, although not too well  
attended, was a fine evening.

THE SOCIETY and the community  
have had the misfortune to lose  
three fine gentlemen during the  
past few months, John Oliger,  
Marlin Maddux and William Parker.  
They all, in their way, were  
great contributors to the  
success of the Society. Their  
influence on the organization  
and Decatur County will be  
felt for a long time. Keep in  
mind the good works of these  
men as we try to equal their  
endeavors.

\* \* \* \* \*  
VIDEO TAPES - are for sale by  
the Society. One is about the  
Centennial Celebration of  
Greensburg in 1959. The other  
is entitled Deactur County  
Now & Then, pictures & commen-  
tary of the area. If you are  
interested in these, call  
Rheadawn Metz 663-7121 or Van  
P. Batterton 663-5974.

\* \* \* \* \*  
HISTORY OF DRUG STORES .....

....Continued from last issue.

Hunter Pharmacy purchased  
Wright's Drug Store on the  
East side of the square in  
February, 1972 and incorporated  
that business in the operations  
of the pharmacy.

Due to expansion of business  
operations, the pharmacy was  
moved to the North side of the  
square into the more spacious  
store room formerly occupied by  
the Fair Store in August of  
1975.

Mr. Herbert Hunter retired in  
1972 from active participation  
in the business, after serving  
the public for 63 years as a  
pharmacist. Mr. Hunter died in  
August 1976 at the age of 91.



In June 1982, Hunter Pharmacy purchased Batterton's Drug Store which was located on the West side of the square and was listed at the oldest drug store in Indiana, being established in 1876. This business was incorporated into the operations of Hunter Pharmacy.

The business further expanded in July, 1982 by purchasing an adjacent building, formerly occupied by the Men's Shop clothing store. A Home Health Care Department was established in this building and incorporated into the operations of Hunter Pharmacy.

Hunter Pharmacy is among the largest independent pharmacies in southeastern Indiana serving the retail patrons of Decatur County and acting as consulting pharmacist to the Nursing Homes in the County.

Oliver and William Hunter are joined in the operations of Hunter Pharmacy by Nicholas Peters, Dale Boing and Gary Schoettmer, all stock-holders of the corporation and registered pharmacists.

In Decenter of 1989, Oliver and William Hunter sold their interest in Hunter Pharmacy to Nicholas Peters, Dale Boing and Herbert Hunter, the son of William Hunter.

# # # # # # # # # #

#### ROBINWOOD FARM

On August 6, 1798, William Robbins was born in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Franklin County, Virginia. He came to Indiana in 1821, entered 376 acres of land located one-half mile east of Horace in Decatur County.

James Gilman Robbins, son of William, was born on this farm, June 10 1829. James G. Robbins has two sons, John and Will, who with their father started in the pure bred Scotch Shorthorn business in 1876.

They were the leading Scotch Shorthorn breeders and exhibitors, and the two sons became one of the best expert judges of cattle in this country during a period beginning about 1890.

Gay Monarch a bull along with four cows, won the grand prize of 1,000 dollars at the Worlds Fair in 1893.

The first importation of cattle from Scotland to this herd was four females and a male in 1895. In 1896 the Robbins herd was shown at Madison Square Garden in New York City and won every first prize offered.

After Will Robbins death in 1926 his son, Earl Robbins took over the farm.

In 1934, Raveni Masterpiece was judged the Grand Champion

Bull at the International Livestock Show at Chicago. His grave stone along with Gay Monarch has been moved to the back yard of the Decatur County Historical Museum in 1988 because they were being neglected on the farm.

I remember of being at the cattle sales in the 1930's. A large tent was set up with bleachers all around with bright straw bedding over knee deep in the ring. Earl Gartin of Burney was one of the Auctioneers and as the first calf was led in and her pedigree and the prizes she won were read, the bidding would start and some brought as much as \$2,500 with the average around \$750. Fat cattle at this time were selling for about .12¢ per pound or about \$150 each. They usually had around 50 head to sell. Buyers come from several states and we had several buyers in Decatur County as they were a popular breed.

Every summer, time was spent getting ready to take and show the cattle at fairs all over the middle west. They would get two box cars and if they were to show in Canada they had to have an extra low car to go under a low underpass. Several days were spent making pens, bins for feed and water and bunks for the men. When the day arrived to load the cattle, most all relation and town of Horace was on hand to lead the cattle to the cars in a parade usually ten to fifteen head. Sometimes they would be gone from four to five weeks.

After the men got back from showing the cattle they usually had some tales to tell. I remember one time one of the boys told us a game they played on each other. After a while most of the boys would get to know each other and when the trains were switching the cars in and out of the fairs the cars would pass each other and the idea was to see who would get the other person wet by throwing a bucket of water at him. I had been soaked twice and a corn cob bounced off my head and with the score three to nothing I had to get even. So with plenty of ammunition on board I planned my attack and as luck would have it we passed by them and I scored a direct hit with a shovel full of cattle manure. I was glad that we were heading for home as the game was becoming a bit messy.

Another time at a fair with plenty of time on our hands, we used the pocketbook trick with a string attached. When one would bend over to pick it up we would pull it away with a string.

Another time we put a brick in a popcorn box and put it on the floor where people walked and watch people kick it. This time a black boy maybe sixteen years old, barefooted just as happy as he could be came down the alley and tried to drop kick the box into the next pen. Oh I know that really hurt! He gave me a look that I didn't like that reminded me that I was due at the machinery field thirty minutes ago and as I looked back he was still on the floor trying to count his toes. We didn't try this trick again until we got to another fair.

In the 1940's when Earl was no longer able to run the farm, a son in law, Clifford Weldy took over until the farm was sold to Jim Myers in 1950.

Earl Robbins died in 1956 ending four generations on this farm. They were one of the most prominent farmers and stockman in this county and gained national fame as a breeder and exhibitor of livestock.

The farm was one of the show places in southern Indiana. Brightly painted wood fences ran around the buildings and along the road. The barns were painted white trimmed in black with the name Robinwood Farm on the front of the barn. The big new house was destroyed by fire in the late 1930's. John and Mary Bennett have owned this farm of 376 acres since 1983.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

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THE STORY OF A RING

By: Anna Linville

One of the events in my life as a small country girl, is still quite vivid to me,---at 80 years!

We lived on a farm in Saltcreek Township, Decatur County. In that south eastern area, where Franklin, Ripley and Decatur counties almost join each other. On the West of our farm was the Mt. Etna School House, just a stones throw from our house.

It was not unusual, in the summer time, for strangers to stop under the shade of the locust trees across the road from the school house, on the edge of my fathers farm, to rest, water their horses at the school house well, and to eat their lunch. The "log haulers" always made that their "luch stop."

One summer day, a man with a very nice buggy, and nice horse, drove by our home. In those days we knew all the horses in our neighborhood as well as we knew the owners. This was a strange horse and a strange man. Later we noticed this man was walking back and forth under the locust trees, where he had stopped to eat. He seemed to be looking for something on the ground.

In the course of sometime, he walked back to our house. My father had gone back to work, so mother talked to him. He told mother he had stopped under the locust trees, to rest, to eat his lunch, and to water his horse. He said as he was ready to leave he discovered he had lost the signet ring that he wore. He said it was the gift of a dear friend, and he prized it very much, but he had to be in Greensburg by a certain time, to meet a man, and discuss a business deal, so he could "linger no longer." He left his Chicago address with mother, and said he would send her \$25 if she found the ring.

Many times mother and I looked all over that area, but no ring. I frequently hunted for the ring, with visions of what I could get with that \$25, but we found no ring.





away while she drove thru and closed the gate. But the unearthly squeek of the gate scared that tree full of buzzards and they all took off at once, which united kick off brought down the whole rotten top of that dying tree in chunks, branches and twigs. Mary rushed back to Carl thinking him dead or mortally wounded in that cloud of trunk, dirt and branches. Carl was setting up straight choking a bit, greatly entertained, but soiled. In the meantime the horses had escaped thru the gate. Mary was of course unable either to manage the gate now a wreck or get the freedom loving animals back into the pasture; so she proceeded to Grandma Robison's where the whole carivan was welcomed and fed.

# # # #

#### ITEMS FROM THE REVIEW.....

Gas The Wood market was expected to be good for some months. "Gas is short at both ends." Will Winchester would shoot a gas well at Rushville the first of the week.

Crime "Two toughs" from Muncie were in the Decatur County jail charged with grand larceny. They had been under surveillance because they had been selling gold watches and jewelry on the streets. Word from Muncie said that a jewelry store there had been robbed by two men answering the description of the "toughs." Their prospects for a trip over the road are excellent"

Medicine Man Dr. Wan-A-Tan recently from Indian Territory was opening an Indian medicine lodge and sanitarium in Mr. Johnson's property on Main Street. He would be assisted by his wife and son, who were Indian doctors.

Contest Who would win the big fight--Sullivan or Corbett? How many rounds and how many minutes would they go? Ehrhardt the tailor was offering an \$8 pair of pants for the closest guess and a \$7 vest for the next closest, garments to be of the winner's choice.

Weather and Crops Recent rains had helped the corn and prospects were good despite late planting. Light frost was expected.

"The fruit crop is not immense in this locality."

John Hinds (the man with the lingering grippe) had grown a three pound tomato.

Fraternal Affair At the newly organized K of P Lodge in St. Paul, ".....story of Damon and Pythais filled the hearts of the applicants and the goat worked to perfection.....All, when the dull gray morning came, were tired and ready for a morning nap."

Surprise Parties These were "all the rage." Recipients were Taylor Osman of Marion Township on Tuesday, and Lewis Fiscus of east of town on Thursday. (He refused to pretend surprise.) On Wednesday "representative German citizens" surprised Mrs. Mary Ehrhardt "on the occasion of the fifty-second anniversary of her deceased husband Conrad Ehrhardt." Charles Fromer proposed a toast in German.

In Memory of _____	Comments _____
_____	_____



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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

FALL ISSUE

Greensburg, Indiana

OCTOBER 1992

OCCASION: Fall Meeting

PLAall Meeting, Dec. 2, 1992 the  
DATErogram, on  
PROArt Smart of Indiana on.  
EMC Building at 7:30 P.M. this  
important announcement.  
Ed.

Genealogy Query-James Wynkoop was born to Isaac & Mary(or Ann) Wynkoop in Cumberland County, PA on 19 July 1817 & died 27 Feb. 1893. His wife, Barbara Hetterick was born in PA on 23 Jan. 1817 & died 30 Nov. 1903. She was the daughter of John & Catherine Hetterick. Samuel Wynkoop was born in PA & lived in Decatur County most of his life. He married Rebecca Francis Hetterick. I would appreciate corresponding with anyone having an interest in the Wynkoop Family. Vernon J. Tipton, 346 Canyon Ave. Springville, Utah, 84663, Tel. (801)489-6308.

# # # # #

Welcome New Members

Rosalyn Johnson, Westport  
Ray Geis, Greensburg  
John Tumilty, Greensburg  
Richard Baldwin, Greensburg  
Charles Shirk, Greensburg  
Gene Walters, Greensburg  
Frank Manus, Greensburg  
Jim Sefton, Greensburg  
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Whipple (Sarah)  
Howard Wilkison  
Russell Wilhoit  
Vernon John Tipton-Springville, UT

Gifts to the Society

Paul Pank  
Dorothy Townsend

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Martha L. Kuchler - E. Brunswick, N.J.

SUMMER TOUR was a very successful program for the Society. A good sized group of members & friends met on the north side of the courthouse square. From there they proceeded south to the Roy Robbins farm. There they inspected a very unusual bank barn built in the late 1800's. Mr. Robbins told how the barn was used. From here the tour went to the Ati Morgan farm to view the only round barn in the county. Mr. Morgan showed the group around the very interesting building. The tour ended at the home of the Paul Menefees. Here the members were able to view the fine display of antique farm tools and implements. This was quite a show. The Menefees along with their collection, took the group into their home & served them a wonderful collection of refreshments. A perfect ending for a great program. Allan Beall & John Parker were in charge of the event.

\* \* \* \* \*

DUES: If there is a RED STAR on your address label, it's time to pay your dues.

THE STANDARD 6/10/69

We very much dislike to "dun" our patrons, and regret the necessity for doing so now, but, nevertheless we must insist upon those who are in arrears for subscription, job-work or advertising making payment for the same. We do not propose to do a "long-winded" credit business if it is in our power to avoid it. We have now several hundred dollars due us, and will be very thankful indeed if those who know themselves indebted will settle within the next thirty days.

ANNOUNCEMENT I was recently chosen to be president of our newly formed Tri-County Genealogical Society at Batesville and must get my materials together for the next meeting. For those who may be interested, it will be the 2nd. Wed. of each month at 7:00 PM at the Batesville Library. No meeting in December. The name Tri-County was chosen because we are covering, for the most part, Franklin, Ripley and Decatur counties. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The history in this area of schools, churches, cemeteries, etc. and families all ties in together.

Sincerely,  
Irene H. Davis-Krieger  
23184 Pocket Road  
Batesville, IN. 47006  
PH: 812/934-2278

+++++

Dear Editor,

In July I wrote to you and told you that I was getting together some information on the Lead Mine you had asked about in the Summer Issue of the DCHS Bulletin. Here is what my father can recollect.

The location, according to my father, Clifford Davis, was in the southeast point of Decatur County. "It was in a bluff along Laughery Creek and close to an old quarry pond.

The lead was found between limestone rocks and it looked like limestone, until the lime stone was scraped off. We can only guess that the Indians must have found it some time then they picked up a piece and found it to be very heavy - much heavier than plain limestone.

Many years later, (probably in the 1920's) my brother, Ray Davis was working in this Quarry Pond and found some very heavy rocks. He scraped it off and found he could cut it like hard butter so he knew it was pure Lead. He brought it home to show the family. Then Dad knew that this was where the Indians got their Lead."

I am also looking for information on Daniel Singleton Perry. His father was supposed to have been in the Revolutionary War according to the 1915 Decatur County History Book. His daughter, Celia married William Hart. The Perry family was supposed to have lived several miles east of Greensburg, in the area west of McCoy Lake. If you know of anyone who may have information on the Perry family or records of the Unknown Cemetery, I would greatly appreciate it if you would let me know.....Irene H. Davis-Krieger

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REMINISCENCES OF MRS. BRIGHT  
January 19, 1934

Continued from the Summer Issue of The Bulletin.

Mrs. Bright was born on the farm where Don Shellhorn lives (near Star Church). Her father bought the place and moved in March of that year. On a rail fence fork her father got up to get on a horse. The horse jumped. His heel turned and his leg was broken, so that he always limped. In '61 when the Civil War commenced Mrs. Bright was 13 years old. On March 9, her mother was crippled. On the way to market, east of St. Omer, near where



Hiram Jewett lived, there was an old tree turned over. Snow was falling. Her horse was frightened and jumped and turned. Mother had 18 dozen eggs in a basket and 2 cakes of sugar in each end of the bag on the saddle, behind her. Her leg lay across the saddle and broke in 2 places. She got down off the horse, and made a seat on the ground of the sugar. Half of the eggs were broken. A man came down the road and went to Mr. Jewett for a sled and hauled her home.

When Mr. Robertson was about 30, during the Civil War, he had fever and had to get on a horse and swim across the creek. St. Omer was 2 miles from the McCoy farm.

Mrs. Bright's mother's maiden name was Mamie Short. Henry Short of Greensburg is her mother's nephew. Her mother was the oldest of her family. Mrs. Short was not very strong, so that much of the responsibility of the family rested on the daughter. Mrs. Bright was the fifth of her family.

In St. Omer, Dave Hooten kept a saloon and tried to ruin every boy in the county. (He) said he would be ready to die when he had got certain young people in to drink. When she was a child it was a disgrace to play cards. Hooten's saloon used to be on the right as you go north down in the valley. The building is not standing now. There was also the dry goods store of Sebastian Hafer. He was a smart man--above average. Asked once why he did not go to Cincinnati, he said that in St. Omer he was a big man, but in Cincinnati, he would be a little one. He died and is buried in St. Omer.

Across from Hafer's there was another dry goods store (they were general stores). This was owned by David Lovett, who later came to Greensburg. The goods were brought in about twice a year, when people would come in and buy. Women would buy fine bonnets the last of the year. Some were sunbonnets.

Henry Syler, Willie Johnstone's great grandfather, was a good man, but would drink. He and his wife would go to St. Omer and buy a barrel of whiskey and take it home and go buy another. The preacher once went there for dinner and he offered him whiskey, but of course the preacher refused it. He was silly when drunk and drunk most of the time, but he was not a bad man. (He) did harm to himself. There was a still house near John Shellhorn's. John's grandfather, Joe Shellhorn came from New Jersey. (One could get) a gallon for a bushel of corn. Another still house was farther west--that of David Jewett. Sandy McCoy's great grandfather had a still house further west. Mrs. Bright's mother said that when they had the best whiskey made, men would come home and beat their wives and turn over tables and break all the dishes.

Mrs. Bright had heard Rose Brush, who married John Shellhorn, say that no one who was not born in a log house ever amounted to anything. (Miss E. Patton remarked here that it was no disgrace to be poor, but very inconvenient). The Shellhorns, Hayeses, Jewetts were pretty well-to-do when they came. Nelson Jewett was Oney's grandfather, Lafe Robertson's first wife's father.

People used to borrow tea kettles, fire, and all sorts of queer things. McCoys kept a stump burning all the time. "I think sometimes it's the best lesson for all of us to be as hard run." Used to carry shoes to S.S. to save them. She would take her shoes off to go to milk and then put them on and come in and see John Bright when he was courting. Some went fishing and hunting half the year and never got ahead. (Mrs. Robertson here remarked that "Some work and work, but never get ahead. It's because they do not have a head.")

Wheat was first cut with a scythe. Further along the cradle was used. It was very heavy, and took a strong man. The "New Yorker" reaper, her father's first reaper had a platform in back where he would sit and fork it off. It was raked together until there was enough for a bundle, and then forked off. It took three men to shock, other to bind. Each man had part of the field, and had their share done when the machine came around. It was something big at harvest time. There were many to feed. The men thought that whiskey was needed to get along in the harvest field. Mrs. Bright has never seen the flail in use, but remembers the implement. She was always pleased when she got to ride around on the horse. Her father had a floor in his barn about as big as three rooms. A pile of wheat about 1½ feet deep was spread over the floor. Two horses would go around treading wheat, then it was sieved, and chaff fanned by hand, and hauled out. Later there were horse-power threshing machines, with 8, and later 10, horses going around to move the machine.

There is the finish for a poster bed that John's mother had before she was married in a trunk upstairs, Mrs. Bright tells. Mrs. Robertson has a canopy of drawn work to go around the top of a poster bed--about 100 years of age. Mrs. Robertson has the fife his grandfather carried in the War of 1812.

There was always something to amuse people, for they will be amused. People would just come in, without letting anyone know they were coming. They would get in the wagon with the children in back, and go visiting for supper and the evening. All would pitch in and help prepare supper, they would stay until 12 o'clock, and the children danced and they all told funny stories. Cooking was done in a fireplace. A crane held a pot with a boiled dinner. Miss E. Hamilton tells of iron ovens, about three feet long and covered. Coals were put under and around it, and it was called a "Dutch Oven." People also had ovens build outside. Mrs. Bright has baked corn bread by the fire. Corn pone best made by the fireplace. \*

This is the house in which John Bright and Julia McCoy Bright went to housekeeping. It was the old Bright homestead. Effie Bright married a Reed; her daughter, Frances, married Lloyd Bailey. The Reeds had only one child live.

Mrs. Bright's first teacher, Jimmie Leach, came from England. She went to school at the Syler School house 2 miles east of St.

Omer. It was first a log house, then a frame building. Cheney at White Oak was the last teacher. One of her teachers was Nancy Lovejoy, now in an asylum. Miss Helen Ross painted a picture of the daughter of Miss Lovejoy.

Mrs. Bright has her golden wedding anniversary dress. She never took a cupful of medicine, until eight years ago, after she was married. Mr. Bright died the 16th of April, of that year; and she took pneumonia the 6th of May and was not out of the house until in October. Mr. Bright's father was born in New Jersey, and her husband was born over where the Scales now are on this farm. She was married the day she was 19. She has pictures of herself when she was 18 years old.

\* First stoves came from the Laurel foundry. Miss Hamilton recalls the Steppe Stove.

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#### GRADED SCHOOLS

The first graded school in Greensburg was in 1861. It was conducted in the basement of the old Baptist church.

Miss Drusilla Warthin was principal and Miss Rebecca Richmond assistant. The school was free for town pupils but those coming from the country, were charged six dollars for the three months' term. The curriculum embraced philosophy, algebra and ancient history, in addition to the common school branches of learning. Upon the organization of this graded school, Doctor Moody, A.R. Forsyth and J.B. Lathrop were named trustees. There was only sufficient money to run the school for a term, with no allowances for incidentals. Money was raised to hire a janitor by assessing each pupil fifty cents. It was during this term that Dr. Moody displayed true Solomonic wisdom in settling a rather delicate matter. One of the patrons of the school came to him and protested because a little negro girl was attending this school.

He said he would take his own daughter out unless the colored pupil was removed. The colored girl was very light in color, while the protesting citizens daughter was a very dark brunette. "Very well," said Doctor Moody. "We will send a man around tomorrow to pick out the negro. If he picks out the negro, she goes out, and if he picks out your child, she goes out." The irate citizen was content to drop the matter.

Warthin Family papers.

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#### CLAY TOWNSHIP

Clay Township was organized in March 1836, and was laid off by the board of commissioners of Decatur County at their March term for that year. This township bears the distinction of being the only one in the county which contains an entire congressional



Seventh Annual Commencement

OF THE

{ GREENSBURG }

{ HIGH SCHOOL }

{ AT }

SEMINARY HALL,

{ ON }

Friday Evening, May 18th, 1877,

Beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

(Standard Print)

"Per Aspera ad Astra."

# PROGRAMME.

MUSIC. PRAYER. MUSIC.

SALUTATORY, - WILBURN M. MCCOY.

MUSIC.

Essay, - Hope in the Future.  
Lizzie A. Christy.

Essay, - On the Fence.  
David G. Montfort.

Essay, "Be what you are, Become what you  
Yuba M. Burns. can."

MUSIC.

Essay, - Young Men of History.  
Harry D. Dyer.

Essay, - What can a Woman do?  
Lizzie Woodfill.

Essay, - The Emblem of America.  
Frank P. Weedon.

MUSIC.

Essay, - Witchcraft.  
Amanda Anderson.

Essay, - Compulsory Education.  
Frank H. Hood.

Essay, Through Difficulties to Greatness.  
Antis S. Zeigler.

MUSIC.

Essay, - Aaron Burr.  
Wilburn M. McCoy.

Essay, - Shrines.  
Jennie E. Sharp.

MUSIC.

Presentation of Diplomas.

VALEDICTORY, DAVID G. MONTFORT.

MUSIC.

BENEDICTION.

State of Indiana  
Decatur County ss.

This will certify  
that Miss Ann Warthen is well qual-  
ified to teach Reading, Writing Arith-  
metic, Geography and English Gram-  
mar, and she is hereby licensed to teach  
in the Common Schools of this county  
for two years from this date  
Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> 1860

W. H. Powner  
Examiner

Miss Warthen  
I am  
satisfied with your qualifications  
to teach, and I take pleasure in giving you license.  
W. H. P.

township. The history of the settlement of Clay township may be divided into four parts, namely: The Buck-run settlement; the Clifty settlement; The Middle Fork settlement and the Duck Creek settlement.

MILFORD is the oldest town in this township. It was platted and laid out by James Edwards, Aug. 25, 1835, and was originally known by the name of Needmore; but just why this little village was encumbered with such a name is left to the imagination of the reader.

The first millers to locate in this part of the county were the Critsers, who owned several mills along Clifty Creek, and for a time had a monopoly on the milling industry in this section. This monopoly was contested for a time by William Burton, who owned and ran a horse mill near Milford, to which he attached considerable importance. Mr. Burton put up a strong opposition for a time but soon abdicated to the Critsers and left them in full sway. The first steam engine in this township was owned and operated by Edward Warthin in 1836 or 1837. It was used to drive the machinery of a mill on Clifty Creek, a short distance below Milford. This mill also bears the distinction of being the first steam grist mill, with a bolting apparatus, in the county. This was a great advertising asset to the owners for it attracted settlers from all parts of this section to see the mill in actual operation. Before this advancement, the mills had been run by water power supplied by Clifty Creek.

Warthin Family papers

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